



March 17, 2008

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

On behalf of the Indianapolis Center for Education Entrepreneurship, Inc, d/b/a The Mind Trust, I respectfully submit for your consideration this request for a federal appropriation for The Mind Trust's Education Entrepreneur Fellowship through the Fiscal Year 2009 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act.

The Mind Trust is a non-profit organization with a mission to dramatically improve public education for underserved students by empowering education entrepreneurs to develop or expand transformative education initiatives. Former Mayor Peterson and I founded The Mind Trust in 2006, and we measure our results on the outcomes achieved by students, including improved student learning, high school graduation rates, and post-graduation outcomes. We apply this standard to initiatives launched by both of our two strategies. Our first strategy is a *nationally unique* Education Entrepreneur Fellowship that serves as an incubator for transformative education ventures. Our second strategy is a Venture Fund to recruit to Indianapolis the nation's most successful entrepreneurial education initiatives. The Venture Fund has invested over \$2.8 million to successfully recruit Teach For America, The New Teacher Project, and College Summit to public schools in Indianapolis, where they have quickly made a deep impact. Striving to achieve success in both of these strategies, we seek to make Indianapolis the nation's foremost destination for transformative leaders, organizations, talent, and ideas.

The Mind Trust's Education Entrepreneur Fellowship program was developed to provide ambitious, hungry entrepreneurs with an opportunity to develop fresh ideas and launch initiatives to transform public education, particularly in underserved communities. The Fellowship is a "first of its kind" incubator, providing the fellows with a full-time salary, benefits, office space, and customized training and support in order to turn a promising idea into a functioning educational venture. Fellowship ventures will target underserved or disadvantaged populations with solutions that attack the root problems in the delivery of public education.

Senator, we are extremely grateful for your past support of the Indianapolis Center for Education Entrepreneurship, and I look forward to working with you and your staff on this important initiative this year. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Harris
President and CEO